

The Maryland Numismatist



Anti-Counterfeiting Devices



3-D Security Ribbon

Tilt the note back and forth while focusing on the blue ribbon. You will see the bells change to 100s as they move. When you tilt the note back and forth, the bells and 100s move side to side. If you tilt it side to side, they move up and down. The ribbon is woven into the paper, not printed on it.

Bell in the Inkwell

Tilt the note to see the color-shifting bell in the copper inkwell change from copper to green, an effect which makes the bell seem to appear and disappear within the inkwell.

Image courtesy of the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Ballot enclosed
Annual meeting Nov. 19 at 3PM
Baltimore Convention Center room 329

Autumn, 2011 Volume 39 – No. 3

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

<http://mdstatenumisassn.org>

EDITOR

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The Board of Directors of MSNA is composed of the officers, past presidents and club representatives as listed to the right.

AMERICAN
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION

ANA # C-73593 LC-42

LIFE MEMBER CLUBS

- #-1 Baltimore Coin Club
- #-2 Carroll County Coin Club
- #-3 Maryland Token & Medal Society
- #-4 South Glen Burnie Coin Club
- #-5 Colonial Coin Club
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Montgomery County Coin
Club

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

Each member club of MSNA shall appoint a representative who will serve on the board and will exercise their club's vote on any matter arising.

PAST PRESIDENTS:

Frank Murphy
Simcha Kuritzky
Edward L. Craig

Club Mailing Address:

MSNA
Post Office Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504

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Table of Contents

Officer Listing	2
President's Message	4
Anthony Swiatek Talk in Baltimore	6
Literary References to Maryland	6
A Brief History of Anti-Counterfeiting Devices	8
Local News	12
What's Your Sign? (Zodiac themed medals)	15
New Constitution and By-Laws	20
Ballot	21
Maryland Coin Show Dates	22
Club Member Listing	23
Advertising Rates	23

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■ *MSNA Life Member #64* ■

President's Message

Welcome to the autumn issue of *The Maryland Numismatist*. MSNA extends a special thanks to Anthony Swiatek, our third speaker in the MSNA Distinguished Lecturer Series. After delivering a nice lecture and slide show on buying coins, Anthony generously donated back to MSNA the honorarium we presented him, though he did enthusiastically accept the MSNA Honorary Life Membership. The success of Distinguished Lecture Series encourages us that our decision three years ago to redirect the organization away from hosting an annual show and initiatives and events like the lecture series and exhibit competitions was the right one. We look forward to the continuance of this series into 2012 and beyond.



MSNA's last event of 2011 will be the annual meeting at the Whitman show in November (room 329 of the Baltimore Convention Center). Members are highly encouraged to attend our upcoming annual meeting as we will be seeking approval of some minor updates and revisions to our Constitution and By-Laws, as published in this issue and on the MSNA website. We will also be working on securing an appraisal of the John B. Henry collection and incorporating a simple but functional MSNA store on our website to benefit members and member clubs.

In my last letter I addressed the need for ensuring adequate member club representation at our meetings and events. The task at hand is to simply have member clubs re-establish or confirm their representative to MSNA. I ask that all member clubs be responsive to the forthcoming letter to your club requesting this information update.

The MSNA board will entertain and consider member submissions on the design of our 2012 Souvenir Card to commemorate the War of 1812. If you have design ideas or proposals for the 2012 souvenir card, please submit them for our consideration prior to November. The design selection will be announced in the next issue.

Thanks again to all the member clubs and members who promoted, sold, or purchased 2011 tickets for the gold and silver prizes to be raffled in November. Please contact us if you need more tickets for friends and family. With that, I wish you the best the autumn months and this hobby can offer. I hope to see many of you at our annual meeting.

Julian M. Leidman

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What Have I Done?

I have handled, developed and sold many of the finest rare coin collections in the country including:

- Rare Colonial issues, including several 1792 issues
- Assemblage of specialized collections of all early U.S. coins by die variety
- Sale of the Wilkison Gold Pattern Collection in 1973
- Participation as a bourse dealer at hundreds of local, regional and national coin shows and conventions
- Attendance at every major U.S. auction held since 1968, representing as many as 25 bidders at the same time
- Consultation to corporations, dealers, and collectors in order to develop, build and expand collections as well as being instrumental in the promotion of the numismatic hobby
- Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Professional Numismatists Guild

What Can I Do For You?

With total confidentiality, I will tailor my services to fit your needs, and:

- Assist in the formation (or location) of any U.S. coin or currency collection
- Counsel collectors, dealers and corporations on any aspect of the numismatic business or hobby
- Act as personal representative for any numismatic transaction at a maximum commission of 10%
- Appraise collections or individual pieces on an hourly basis
- Assist in the orderly disposition of holdings at current values



LM #664



Knowledge. Integrity. Responsibility.

P·N·G



Anthony Swiatek Talk in Baltimore

Former ANA President Anthony Swiatek spoke on "What Every Collector Should Be Aware of Before Buying Coins at a Coin Show" on Friday at the June Whitman Expo in the Baltimore Convention Center. This expo was held in a new hall, nearest to Camden Yards, so the talk was nearby on the west side of the hall. We had a couple dozen attendees for a talk that lasted an hour and a half.

Mr. Swiatek had an old-fashioned slide show that included many counterfeits and altered coins, including coins with added mintmarks and smoothed surfaces. He also described how evolving grading standards and coin slabbing have impacted the coin market. As a recognized expert in U.S. commemorative coins, Mr. Swiatek gave the audience some pointers on which recent commemorative issues contain valuable varieties. He also included a good number of anecdotes and humorous stories. At the conclusion of the lecture, Mr. Swiatek accepted an honorary life membership in MSNA and a presentation set of MSNA medals. He also donated back our honorarium, which will help keep MSNA in the black this year.

Literary References to Maryland

Maryland resident David Schenkman described a visit to the St. Maries Coin Club in his column in the July *Numismatist* (ANA's journal). He also shows their fortieth anniversary medal and an example of their SCRIP which is given out as door prizes.

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A Brief History of Anti-Counterfeiting Devices

by Scott Barman

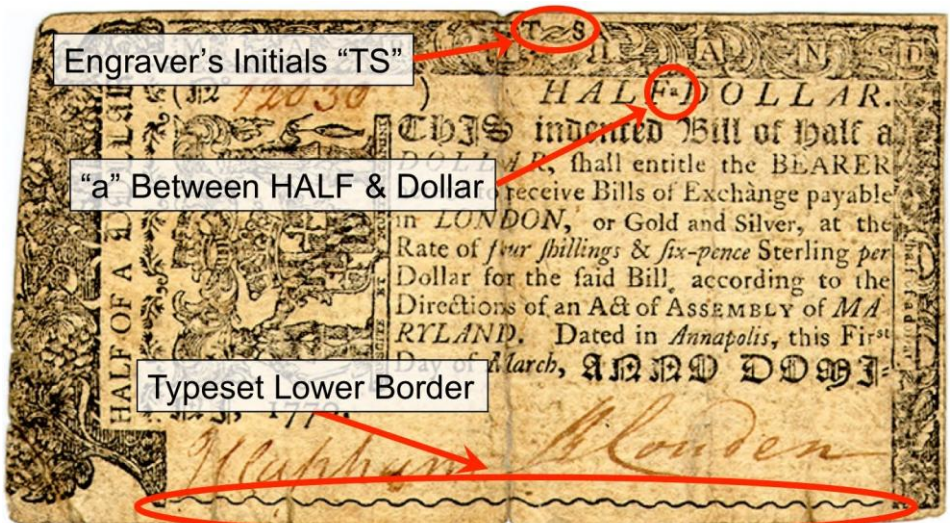
The British colonies in North America primarily used as currency coins whose value was based on their metal content. When the king taxed his colonies to pay for wars in Europe or the colonies, he removed specie from circulation, forcing the colonies to find other ways to finance services provided by their own governments. Since it was illegal for the colonies to coin money and specie was scarce, the colonies issued paper notes. These notes functioned as currency but actually were bills of credit—short-term public loans to the government. For the first time, the money had no intrinsic value but was valued at the rate issued by the colonial government in payment of debt. Every time the government needed money to pay creditors, they authorized the printing of a specified quantity and denomination of notes. Laws authorizing the issuance of notes were called emissions. Most emission laws also included a tax that was used to repay the bills of credit with interest. When citizens paid taxes with paper currency, the paper was retired. As the notes were removed from circulation, that meant less interest the government had to pay. On the maturity date, people brought their notes to authorized agents who paid off the loan. The agents then turned the notes over to the colonial government for reimbursement plus a commission. Sometimes, colonies could not pay back the loan. They instead passed another emission law to cover the debt owed from the previous emission plus further operating expenses, buying back mature notes with new notes. The colonists accepted this system since it was easier than barter and there were never enough coins to meet commercial needs.

Counterfeiting was rampant by the mid-Eighteenth Century. In order to combat the problem, Benjamin Franklin devised the nature print, an imprint of a leaf or other natural item with unpredictable patterns, fine lines, and complex details, making it difficult to copy. To create a nature print, Franklin placed a leaf on a damp cloth. The cloth was placed on top of a bed of soft plaster to press the leaf into the plaster. Once the plaster hardened, it had a negative impression of the leaf. Molten copper was then poured over the plaster to make the printing plate. Franklin first used nature prints for the 1737 New Jersey emission. He also used different leaves for different denominations and elaborately engraved borders to further thwart the efforts of potential counterfeiters.

Franklin partnered with David Hall to print notes for New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Along with his nature print, Franklin also included the phrase “Tis Death to Counterfeit.” Aside from trying to scare away potential counterfeiters, the penalty for counterfeiting in the Eighteenth century really was death, though no convictions for counterfeiting colonial currency have been recorded. Later, Hall partnered with William Sellers to print Pennsylvania currency when the Pennsylvania assembly sent Franklin to England as their colonial agent.

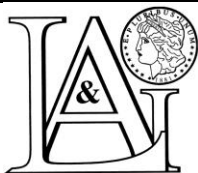
Other printers tried different methods to thwart counterfeiters. James Parker of Woodbridge, New Jersey printed notes in two colors. Printing was a labor-intensive process, so it was thought requiring two printings per note would be too cumbersome for counterfeiters. Also, Parker used red ink as the second color, which then was more expensive than black.

In Maryland, William Green of Annapolis used other anti-counterfeiting measures including random wavy (indented) borders that had to match the original stub book, elaborate engravings, random punctuation, and superfluous characters. The example below is a “Half a Dollar” from the Maryland emission of March 1, 1770. On this example, the engraver’s initials “TS” (Thomas Sparrow) appear at the top, a small “a” was inserted between “half” and “dollar”, and there is an accent mark over the “a” in “Exchange.”



Anti-counterfeiting technology has become very advanced since the colonial days. When Congress created the National Currency Bureau in 1861, they chose green ink for the original “greenbacks” because it would not photograph properly. When small-size notes were introduced in 1928, they included intricate geometric patterns produced by specialized engraving machines that are difficult to replicate by hand. Today, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has introduced the new \$100 Federal Reserve Note with anti-counterfeiting technology including a watermark, security thread, color-shifting ink, micro printing and a new security ribbon that appears to animate as the note is tilted. Rather than threatening death, today’s currency is protected under laws enforced by the U.S. Secret Service, formed in 1865 as part of the Department of the Treasury following the Civil War to stop counterfeit currency that was printed in an to attempt to wreck the Union economy. Up to half of the currency in circulation is estimated to have been counterfeit then.

The responsibility to protect the president and other national officials and their families was added to their responsibilities in 1901 following the assassination of President William McKinley and expanded over time. Today, the U.S. Secret Service is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with the same mission to protect U.S. money from counterfeiting. They reported making 2,506 domestic arrests for counterfeiting as well as assisting with 360 foreign arrests during fiscal year 2009. This helped remove \$182 million in counterfeit currency from circulation, making them one of the world’s premiere law enforcement organizations.



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540-272-1524
coburngregg@gmail.com**

Banquet: **speaker Beth Deisher,
Coin World Editor
Saturday 7-9 PM
Prior Reservations and Payment required**

Local News



MSNA member Sandra Emme's exhibit *A Brief History of Ballooning* won second place in the crowded Specialties class at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Chicago. This same exhibit was judged Best of Show at the MSNA exhibit competition this past April. MSNA Editor and Treasurer Simcha Kuritzky placed four exhibits. His exhibit *Boy For Sale? Tokens for the Redemption of the Firstborn Son* won second place in the Tokens class (also exhibited at the MSNA 2011 competition). *Feline Species Numismatic Type Set* won first place in the Modern Coins and Medals class (also exhibited at the MSNA 2009 competition). His exhibit *Engraved Coins of the Ba'al Shem Tov Amulet* won first place in the Engraved Coins class. Finally, *Creating Modern Israel* did not place in the Specialties class.



MSNA member club **Washington Numismatic Society** hosted a pot-luck dinner on June 21, followed by an ANA video on the story of Sacagawea. WNS also celebrated its 75th year of membership in the ANA at the Chicago convention. WNS Vice President Simcha Kuritzky accepted the plaque at the awards banquet.



The **Montgomery County Coin Club** held a Boy Scouts Coin Collecting Merit Badge Workshop meeting on June 14. Qualified coin club members and BSA counselors assisted eight Montgomery District scouts in fulfilling the requirements for the Coin Collecting merit badge, and one joined MSNA. For the July and August meetings, MCCC members viewed a recent History Channel video on Mint production of coins and Crane and BEP production of U.S. banknotes.

WESTMINSTER COIN and CURRENCY SHOW

Westminster Fire Hall - John Street Quarters

28 John Street - Westminster, Maryland

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OCEAN CITY COIN and CURRENCY SHOW
Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center
4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, Maryland
October 1 & 2, 2011

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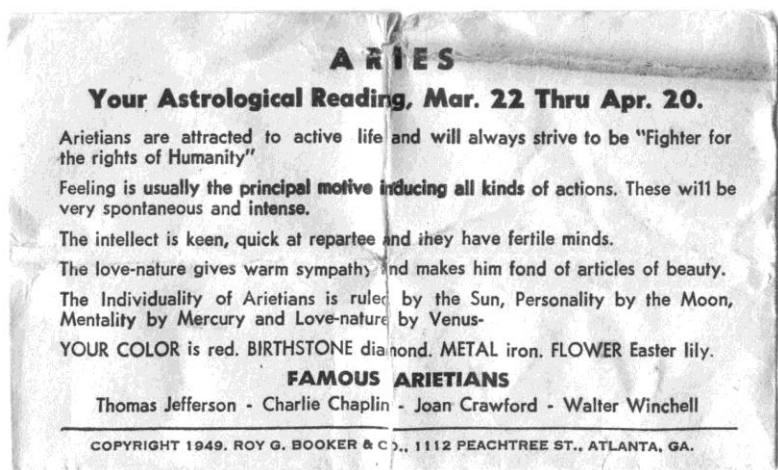
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What's Your Sign?

Part Eleven: An Introduction to Roy Booker's Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

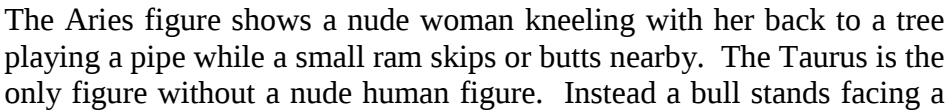
The most popular design of zodiac medals was developed by Roy Booker of Atlanta, Georgia. Unlike the Lucky Buddha and Ushers medals discussed previously, these medals do not carry a copyright date or any indication as to the issuer. However, some were issued in envelopes (see sample below, actual size 63x107mm), but whether the 1949 date is for the medals or just the envelopes is not clear. These medals have been issued in gilded brass, brass, and aluminum over several decades, probably by a number of different mints, as the legend's lettering and positioning vary considerably.



Most of the medals are 25.5mm in diameter, occasionally found holed or with an attached loop. Typical weights are 6.8g for brass, 6.3 for brass with a hole, 7.15g for brass with a loop, 3.15g for 19.3mm brass, and 1.9g for aluminum. Most medals show the sign of the zodiac, often with a nude figure, with the sigil, Latin name, and dates of the sign on the obverse, while the reverse has, from top to bottom, the lucky numbers, a four-leaf clover, a description of those born under the sign, a horseshoe, and the lucky day. The lucky day always corresponds to the planet traditionally associated with the sign. I can't see much rhyme or reason to the lucky numbers, though 5 and 8 are under-represented and 3 and 9 are over-represented. The basic legends follow.

Zodiac Sign	Lucky Num, Day	Dates (exactly as shown)
♈ Aries	1 2 Tuesday You are Earnest and Determined	MAR. 22 – APR. 20
♉ Taurus	3 9 Friday You can be Original	APRIL 21 – MAY 21
♊ Gemini	2 7 Wednesday You are Very Generous	MAY 22 – JUNE 21
♋ Cancer	8 9 Monday You are Versatile	JUNE 22 – JULY 23
♌ Leo	2 7 Sunday You are Trustworthy	JULY 24 – AUG. 23
♍ Virgo	4 5 Wednesday You are a Loyal Friend	AUG. 24 – SEPT. 23
♎ Libra	3 7 Friday You will not be Discouraged	SEPT. 24 – OCT. 23
♏ Scorpio	3 6 Tuesday You are Gifted and Modest	OCT. 24 – NOV. 22
♐ Sagittarius	1 6 Thursday You are a Quick Thinker	NOV. 23 – DEC. 22
♑ Capricorn	6 9 Saturday You are Self-Reliant	DEC. 23 – JAN. 20
♒ Aquarius	3 4 Saturday You will Succeed	JAN. 21 – FEB. 19
♓ Pisces	4 9 Thursday You are Sensitive and Loyal	FEB. 20 – MAR. 21

I find it interesting that the descriptions on the medals do not match what is on the envelopes. I have a number of mules where the obverse is Taurus and the reverse is Capricorn. Most dealers don't notice this because few realize that Taurus is associated with Venus whose day is Friday, while Capricorn is associated with Saturn and Saturday. These mules seem to be reasonably common. The month names are all abbreviated except for the short-named months of May, June, and July. April is abbreviated for Aries but is not for Taurus, presumably to match the other month mentioned on the medal. The typical designs are on the next page. In future articles, I will discuss the different varieties I have found. I'm sure there are many others waiting to be discovered.



tree on his left. Gemini has twin boys playing pipes on either side of a flowering tree or tall bush with a thin trunk or stem. Cancer shows a nude Venus riding her scallop shell while a very rotund crab stands at right with the ocean in the background. A nude woman rides a lion backwards and sidesaddle on the Leo medal, with palm trees behind. Virgo is associated with harvest, so the nude female on the Virgo holds a few sheaves of wheat while sitting on a rock. The nude holds a pair of balance scales on the Libra, kneeling and looking upwards. It's not clear what the nude is doing on the Scorpio medal, but she is kneeling left with her head back and one arm raised. The scorpion is highly stylized with pincers at bottom left and tail raised high. The side legs look more like tentacles than real scorpion legs. The Sagittarius medal shows a nude male pulling a bow facing right by tufts of tall grass. A nude woman kneels right and appears to offer a cluster of grapes to a goat which is standing on its hind legs on the Capricorn medal. Aquarius (water bearer) is personified by a nude female flying left using wings on her feet much like Hermes, pouring out a vase of water over a body of water with hills and a cluster of trees in the background. The nude woman on Pisces seems to be riding two fish to the right while a third fish swims left behind.



I also have a couple medals which were struck into a 35.1mm surrounding brass collar with rays on one side and blank on the other. Perhaps the intention was to engrave a name on the reverse, but both pieces I have are blank. Special 35.1mm versions were made for New Orleans radio station WYLD in aluminum with a large hole at bottom. These don't have the dates or sigil on the obverse, only the Latin name. Instead, the dates appear near the bottom of the reverse. The clover and horseshoe are also there, but the rest of the inscription advertises the radio station and its cash prizes. Each piece is individually stamped with a unique number.



There are also some 19.3mm versions around, though they are much more scarce and they have the dates on the reverse replacing the clover and horseshoe. One of the small versions has a blank back and so was probably attached to a plaque or fob. Many of them are holed, apparently in the after-market. I have a Lucite pen stand with a set of twelve different medals in order from January through December (the traditional sequence is March to February). I've found a couple with built-in loops, and also one piece with Kay Jewelers logo on the reverse. It's possible other companies used these designs on metal store cards.

ANNAPOLIS COIN and CURRENCY SHOW

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The Colonial Coin Club of Annapolis

New Constitution and By-Laws

The MSNA board is currently reviewing the organization's constitution and by-laws, which were last amended in 2000. They will vote on a revised version at the annual meeting and new copies will be distributed to all members by the Editor. The current and proposed versions are posted on <http://mdstatenumisassn.org/MSNA/about-the-msna/msna-constitution-and-by-laws>.

Recommended changes to the Constitution include:

- Article 3: updating the dues to the current amount
- Article 6: recognize the possibility that MSNA might not hold an annual convention, but will hold an annual meeting

Recommended changes to the By-Laws include:

- Article 2 Section 1: the annual meeting will be publicized in the journal previous to the meeting
- Article 2 Section 1: updating the dues to the current amount
- Article 2 Section 3: change reinstatement requirement to just paying current-year dues and not require paying prior-year dues
- Article 3 Section 3: require dues notices to be sent with the last journal of the year rather than a specific date
- Article 4 Section 1: include exhibit competitions as an activity
- Article 5: allow the Editor to tally and report on election results instead of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee

Welcome New Members

#821 Scott Barman
#822 Anthony Condon
HLM 5 Anthony Swiatek
#824 Paul Belschner

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If you joined since 2009 and did not receive a membership pin, you should have a coupon for the pin stapled to your front inside cover. This coupon can be redeemed for a pin at the Whitman Expo in Baltimore registration desk. You can also give it to your local club's MSNA Representative to redeem at a Board meeting.

Ballot

MSNA by-laws require an annual election in which all paid-up members can participate. Please include your name on the envelope and not on the ballot, so we can verify eligibility but keep the votes anonymous. Please vote for one candidate per office or write in your candidate (after gaining their concurrence, please).

The results will be announced at the MSNA annual meeting at 3PM November 19 at the Baltimore Convention Center room 329.

President

Frank Murphy

☐
☐

_____ (write-in)

Vice President

Scott Barman

☐
☐

_____ (write-in)

Secretary

Bryce Doxzon

☐
☐

_____ (write-in)

Treasurer

Simcha Kuritzky, CPA

☐
☐

_____ (write-in)

Ballots should be mailed to be received no later than November 1 to:

MSNA Election
Post Office Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504

Current By-Laws require that ballots be sent by the U.S. Postal Service. If you would like to be able to vote on our web site or by email, please contact the officers or attend the annual meeting and make such a proposal.

Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

3-4 Sept. – Interstate Coin Show, Grand Venice Hotel, 431 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

11 Sept. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

18 Sept. – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

25 Sept. – Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition Show, Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD; 9-4. 410-256-1832 evening

1 Oct. – Middle River Coin Club Show, Victory Villa Community Center, Martin Blvd & Compass Road, Baltimore, MD; 10-3. Contact Wendell for tables 410-687-1517 or pennsylpete@comcast.net.

1-2 Oct. – CEO Coins, Currency & Treasurers Ocean City Show, Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Ocean Highway & 40th Street, Ocean City, MD; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4.

7-8 Oct. – Frederick Coin & Currency Show, Grange Hall, 1 South 8th Alley, Route 144; 9:30-4:30.

16 Oct. – Cambridge Coin Show, American Legion Post 91 Sunburst Highway (Route 50), Cambridge, MD; 11-5.

16 Oct. – Westminster Fire Hall Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

16 Oct. – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

22 Oct. – Belmar Coin Show, Grove Church Hall, 50 East Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen, MD. 9-3.

17-20 Nov.–Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 W. Pratt St; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.

20 Nov. – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

27 Nov. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

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